A MARSHALL CAVENDISH PUBLICATION 42 IN FORTNIGHTLY PARTS

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The Ancestral Trail

CYBER CHALLENGE IN THE NEXT DIMENSION

42 Tyrannix, Robo-Dinosaur

Peril in the jungles of the robot king

Julek Heller

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Computer graphics produced by Mehau Kulyk

No matter how hard he struggled, Richard could not escape from the unbreakable bonds that gripped every part of his body with relentless power. Panic-stricken, he watched as the nearby sophrite squirted a jet of fine powder in his direction. Richard held his breath in the hope that he would be safe if he did not inhale the deadly dust. Fortunately, there was no need to put his flimsy theory to the test.

Rescue from Above

A familiar voice from above rang out through the dank cyber air. "Lifting Chosen One to safety," it said. Richard recognized the shrill, monotone drawl instantly. It was Robo. The little robot had returned and was hoisting his companion to safety. The steel cords that Richard had imagined belonged to another evil inhabitant of the Cyber Dimension came from a small panel at the front of Robo's metallic torso. The robot had once more come to Richard's rescue.

"Robo! Where have you been?" Richard cried, scarcely able to contain his relief.

"Continuuma obscured Robo from view during battle with Chosen One," the robot explained while carrying Richard away from the sophrite fields.

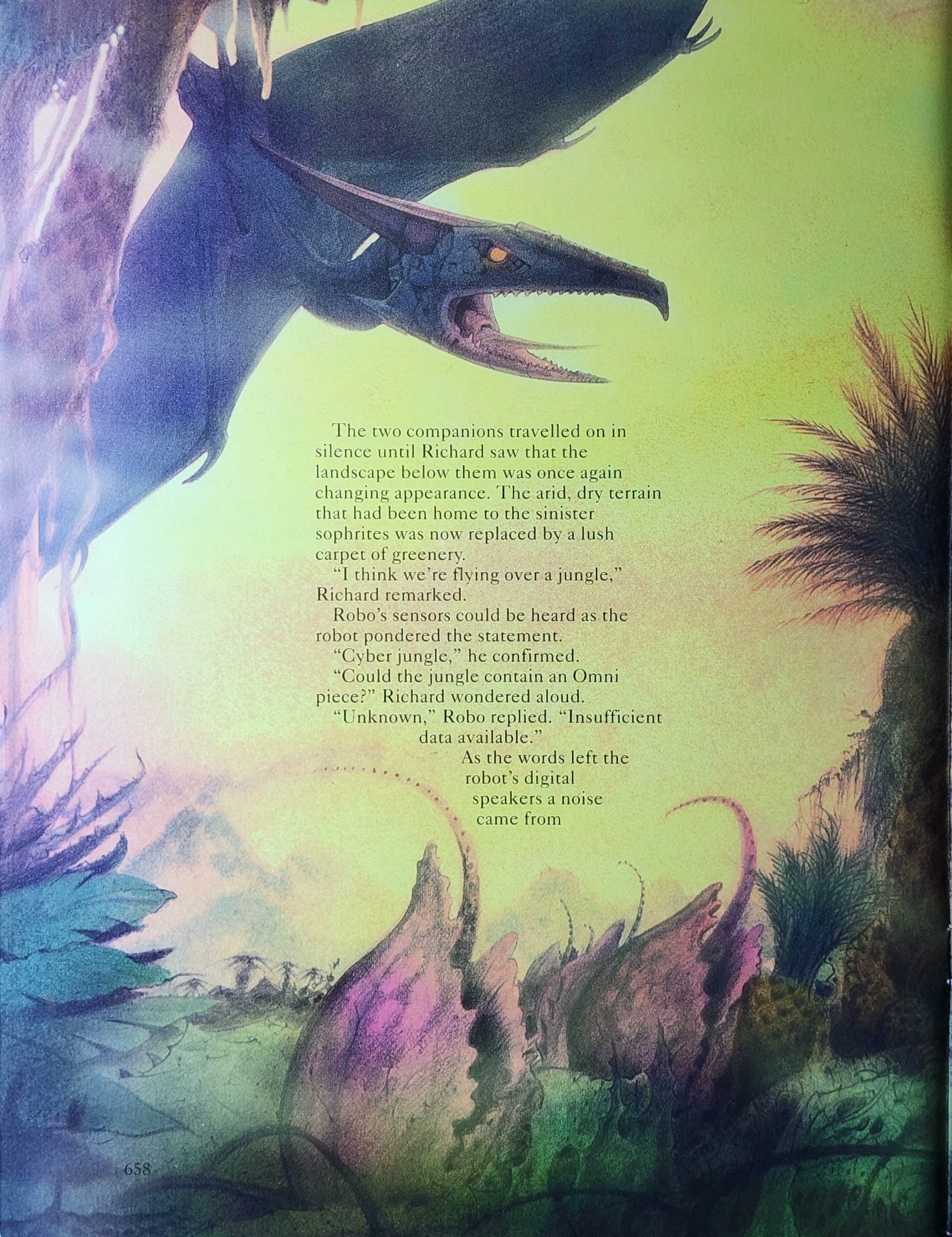
The strange plants slipped away into the distance as Robo glided swiftly away from the dangerous setting. From his vantage point, Richard noticed that they were heading towards a familiar object. "The cyber cruiser!" he yelled excitedly.

The pair came to rest beside the flying machine and Richard quickly climbed inside. "What now?" he asked as Robo followed him into the craft.

"Must locate the remaining four Omni pieces," the robot replied.

"You've never told me that you knew how many Omni pieces there were," said Richard in surprise.

The robot did not reply.



The two companions travelled on in silence until Richard saw that the landscape below them was once again changing appearance. The arid, dry terrain that had been home to the sinister sophrites was now replaced by a lush carpet of greenery.

"I think we're flying over a jungle," Richard remarked.

Robo's sensors could be heard as the robot pondered the statement.

"Cyber jungle," he confirmed.

"Could the jungle contain an Omni piece?" Richard wondered aloud.

"Unknown," Robo replied. "Insufficient data available."

As the words left the robot's digital speakers a noise came from

behind the cyber cruiser. It reminded Richard of the beating of wings. "I think something's following us!" he cried.

Suddenly, a large dark object flew in front of the cruiser. It was several times the size of the flying machine. The huge creature was shaped like a bird. Instead of feathers, it was coated in a material that resembled plastic. A sharply pointed beak protruded from a face that exuded menace.

FLYING NIGHTMARE

"What is that?" Richard gasped.

"Robodactyl," Robo replied.

Before Richard had the chance to think, the robodactyl emitted a terrifying screech and slammed its bulk straight into the cyber cruiser. The craft groaned as the newcomer turned to attack again.

"Danger! Danger!" said the voice of Robo.

Like a flying bullet, the creature accelerated towards the cruiser. As it swept through the air, its scissor-like jaws gaped open to reveal a set of pointed teeth.

Acting on instinct, Richard fired a blast of the cyber cruiser's neutron lasers at their pursuer. He yelled with excitement when he realized that he had scored a direct hit.

Invincible Avian

Richard's joy was short-lived. The powerful neutron laser may well have been right on target but it had no effect on the enormous airborne beast. The Robodactyl's body armour was too strong.

Then Robo spoke: "Advise Chosen One land cyber cruiser to avoid Robodactyl," he said. Richard did as he was instructed.

Scraping its sides against a clump of wiry bushes as it descended, the cyber cruiser set down in the dense jungle with a thud.

Above the grounded craft, the frustrated squeals of the Robodactyl could be heard. It was evidently not pleased that its prey had escaped. For a few moments it tried to fight its way through the upper foliage of the dense undergrowth, but its sheer bulk ensured that it would never penetrate the tangled greenery.

Eventually, it gave up and flew off in search of easier quarry.

When Richard was sure that all was safe, he swung open the cyber cruiser's doors and stepped outside into the jungle.

"That was a close call," he said breathlessly to Robo. "What do you suppose we do now?"

"We must locate exit to cyber jungle," his companion replied.

Richard took a look at where they had landed. They were standing in a dense sea of exotic plants. Wherever he looked, Richard could see nothing but a multi-coloured tangle of exotic hues and shapes. Pulling out his sword, Richard began to cut away some of the strange plants that surrounded him.

"It will take us a year to clear a path through this place," he glumly assessed.

As the words left his lips, Richard was surprised to hear a noise come from behind the jumble of green stems through which he was busily slicing. "Did you hear that?" he whispered.

Suddenly, there was movement in front of him. He did not see the large tendril appear from nowhere, but he felt its iron grip around his waist. "Robo – it's alive," cried Richard as he was lifted from his feet and pulled into the air.

"Danger! Plant is carnivorous!" announced the Robot.

"Do something then!" Richard frantically urged as the plant increased its grip on his body.

The shrill sound of Robo's heat ray cut through the air as it reached its target. There was a series of explosions as portions of the killer plant disintegrated in the intense heat. In moments, Richard felt the pressure on his torso ease, and he dropped harmlessly to the ground.

Forest fire

Richard climbed to his feet and waved his sword before him. If another attack came he wanted to be ready for it. The acrid smell of burning came from the blackened remains of the plant. A streak of orange flame could be seen at its base.

"I don't like the look of that fire," Richard said to his partner. "Can you use your perma beam to put it out?"

Before Robo had time to reply, a deep booming sound emanating from the heart of the jungle caught the robot's attention. Once more, his sensors sprang into action.

"What is it?" Richard asked nervously as the noise grew louder and the ground around him began to shake.

"Unable to answer question. Insufficient data available," came Robo's predictable response. "Suggest we evacuate area immediately. Incoming object is of enormous size."

"What about the cyber cruiser?" Richard asked.

"Cyber cruiser must remain in jungle until area is safe."

By now the din was so loud that it was no longer possible to hear what the robot was saying.

"It sounds like footsteps," Richard called as the earth around him continued to tremor. "Quick! Let's get out of here!"

Putting his sword back into its scabbard, Richard prepared to flee. He gave a gasp of frustration as he realized that the way forward was blocked. The small fire that Robo had created when he freed Richard from the deadly plant had grown. Fed by the lush jungle, the flames were rapidly spreading. Dense black smoke gushed from the centre of the blaze.

"Robo! The fire's out of control!" Richard frantically cried. "We must find another way out!"

Sweat poured down his face as Richard scanned the area around him and found what he was seeking.

Partially obscured by the tangle of bushes and undergrowth was a path. For all Richard knew it might lead to fresh dangers, but he had no choice except to follow it. The fire was now raging out of control. If he and Robo remained where they were, they would surely perish.

Suddenly, a dark shadow stretched over the scene. There was an ear-splitting roar from above as a huge head poked its way through the mass of burning vegetation. A pair of evil-looking eyes scrutinized the panicking forms of Richard and Robo. A gigantic mouth gaped open and prepared to feast.

There was a groan of buckling metal as the enormous newcomer picked up Robo's tiny frame and held him in its mouth. Richard stood rooted to the spot and watched his companion struggle to escape. "Let him go!" he screamed in vain. Then Richard realized exactly what kind of beast this was.

Prehistoric peril

The monstrous giant that was threatening to devour his robotic friend was something with which Richard was familiar. Unlike the other creatures he had encountered during his stay in the Cyber Dimension, the beast before him was not made of metal, plastic or any other artificial substance. It did not belong in this world. It came from the prehistoric jungles that had once covered the Earth.

He had seen pictures of the huge reptile before but never imagined that one day he would be standing face to face with one. It was a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

The great reptile turned its head slowly towards Richard. It was then that Robo yelled a warning. "Danger! Chosen One must move away from Tyrannix," he implored. "Leave Robo and escape!"

Richard's knees trembled as he struggled to return Tyrannix's glare. "Leave the robot alone!" he bravely demanded.

Without warning, the huge brute gave a shake of his head and released Robo. The metallic robot was obviously not to the dinosaur's taste. Richard's companion was sent spinning through the air. He landed right in the centre of the spreading flames and was immediately consumed by them.

The end of Robo

A look of shock washed over Richard's face as he instinctively moved to save his friend. It was no good. The heat from the fire was too strong. Richard looked on as Robo began to melt. There was nothing he could do to save his companion.

Richard's senses reeled as Tyrannix lunged towards him. He felt the breath of the creature as its jaws narrowly missed him. Richard's knees trembled in fear.

In desperation, Richard fled the scene of carnage. The sound of Tyrannix's booming footsteps could be heard close behind him.

As he ran, Richard noticed that he was not the only one who was fleeing from the frightening Tyrannix and the raging forest fire.

A wide assortment of animals were also charging away from the blazing scene. They came in all shapes and sizes. Some towered over Richard; others were smaller than mice. However, they all had one thing in common: the creatures were prehistoric dinosaurs.

THE CHASE IS OVER

Even though Richard was sprinting away as fast as he could, he was no match for the speed of Tyrannix. One mighty stride from the giant Tyrannosaurus rex was enough to bring it to within touching distance of the boy. Richard prepared for the worst.

Tyrannix gave a roar of triumph and prepared to scoop up its puny prey. Once more Richard drew his sword. He realized that it would be no match for the dinosaur, but he was not giving up without a fight.

He looked around for any signs of Robo but he knew it was useless. If he was to survive this latest trial he would have to do so without the robot and his all-knowing binary panel.

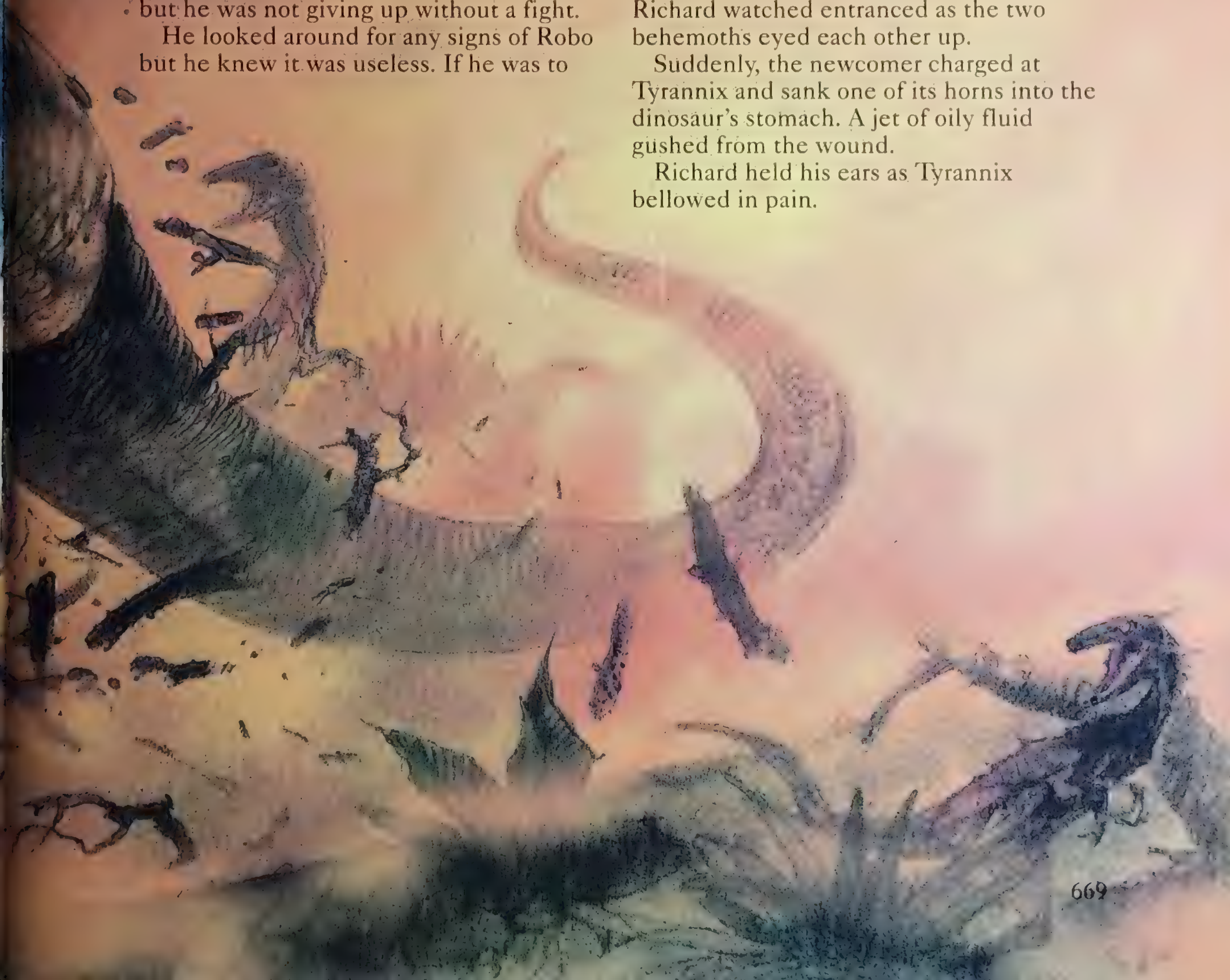
Without warning, a new voice was added to the booming cries of Tyrannix. Equally loud and equally terrifying, the noise obviously belonged to something of similar size to Richard's tormentor.

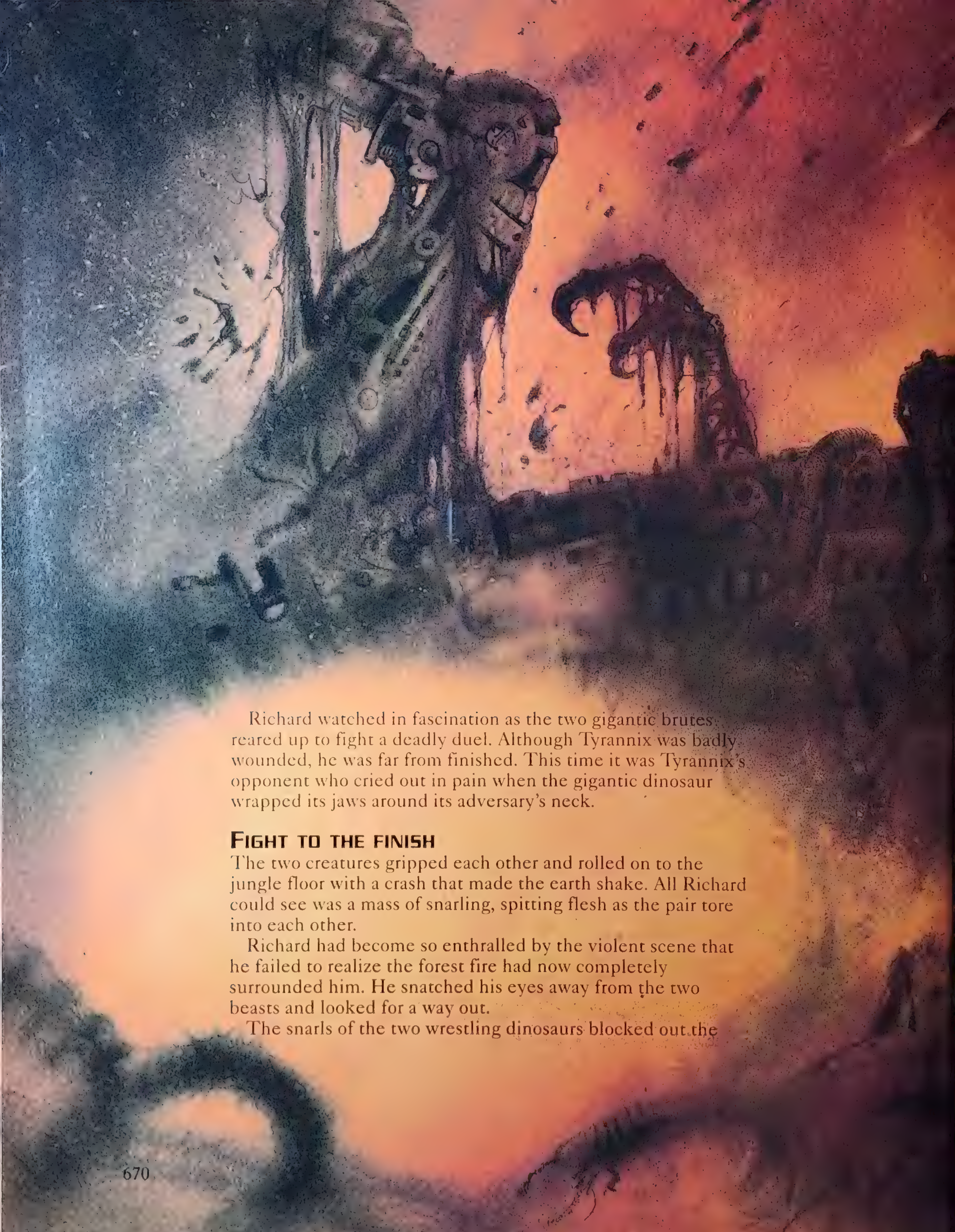
In front of Richard, trees toppled and the ground heaved as the owner of the voice stomped into view. Although it was not as tall as the Tyrannosaurus rex, the newcomer's armour-plated torso made up for its lack of height. A procession of dagger-like spines ran down its rounded spine. Tapering horns stood proudly atop its stubby face.

The creature advanced towards Tyrannix and let out a howl of rage. Richard watched entranced as the two behemoths eyed each other up.

Suddenly, the newcomer charged at Tyrannix and sank one of its horns into the dinosaur's stomach. A jet of oily fluid gushed from the wound.

Richard held his ears as Tyrannix bellowed in pain.





Richard watched in fascination as the two gigantic brutes reared up to fight a deadly duel. Although Tyrannix was badly wounded, he was far from finished. This time it was Tyrannix's opponent who cried out in pain when the gigantic dinosaur wrapped its jaws around its adversary's neck.

Fight to the finish

The two creatures gripped each other and rolled on to the jungle floor with a crash that made the earth shake. All Richard could see was a mass of snarling, spitting flesh as the pair tore into each other.

Richard had become so enthralled by the violent scene that he failed to realize the forest fire had now completely surrounded him. He snatched his eyes away from the two beasts and looked for a way out.

The snarls of the two wrestling dinosaurs blocked out the

sound of the blazing inferno. Even though the heat made him feel dizzy, Richard could not help but turn his attention back to the battle. He stood stock still, taking care to avoid the wildly flailing tail of Tyrannix's opponent. He knew that one swipe of that enormous spiky weapon would be deadly.

Tyrannix and his adversary were now a mass of torn flesh and gaping wounds. Then Richard noticed something strange. Where Tyrannix's flesh had been ripped away from his torso, a network of metal bars and cables was revealed. The dinosaur was not flesh and blood. Like everything else he had met in the Cyber Dimension, it was a mere machine.

Death of the jungle king

All of a sudden the fight was over. With a blood-curdling scream, Tyrannix slumped on to his back and lay still. A trickle of oil ran out from the corner of his mighty mouth. The Tyrannosaurus rex was dead.

Richard felt his body armour getting hotter and hotter as he watched the flames engulf the prone form of Tyrannix. He ran.

It did not take him long to realize that there was nowhere to go. Everything around him was alight. The trees, the foliage, the undergrowth: anything that could burn was now part of the immense fire that swept through the jungle. The blackened air was filled with the screams and cries of burning creatures. The pack of dinosaurs that had followed Richard as he tried to escape were one by one engulfed within the red-hot flames.

Trapped by the fire

Richard's head turned from side to side as he looked in vain for a way out of the inferno. There was none. It was also getting very difficult to breath. He coughed in discomfort.

Richard held his sword aloft and tried to sweep away some of the burning matter that blocked his way out. After a few moments he was forced to give up. The heat was so intense that he was soon exhausted.

He ceased his efforts and for a moment pondered his predicament. Richard let out an ironic chuckle. After all his adventures in the bizarre place, with its collection of unbelievable creatures, it was to be just ordinary fire that would put an end to his quest.

SHOOMI'S SANCTUARY

Enter into the Cyber Dimension and engage optical recognition to find...

▶ Shoomi and Shoobi

Shoomi and Shoobi are still keeping up with our hero's adventures in the Cyber Dimension. Can you spot Richard's twin shadows somewhere in this issue in less than three minutes?

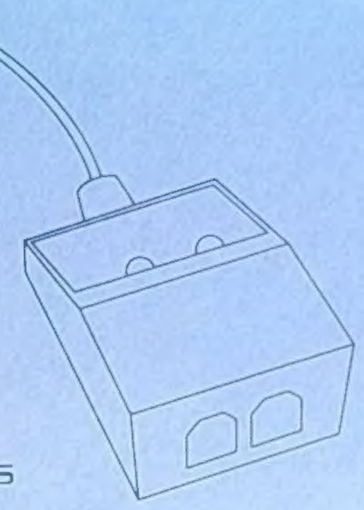
In issue 41 Shoomi and Shoobi were on page 642.

▶ Computer Challenge

Hidden somewhere in this issue is a vitally important computer component from the sinister Cyber Dimension. Use your visual skills to help Richard and his friend Robo locate it in less than three minutes.

When you have discovered the component's hiding place, can you guess what it is and what its function might be?

In the last issue, a computer network connector was hidden on page 650.



Network connectors allow computers to be linked up to other computers, printers, scanners and a variety of different devices so that their users can share information, files and resources.

Most computers have built-in circuitry for connecting to a network.

▶ Competition Details

When you have collected 26 letter blocks, you will be given a clue which will help you form them into a sentence that reveals the fatal flaw in the Cyber Dimension. The prize for the competition is a super Sega Mega Drive, complete with a copy of the great new role-playing game Shining Force.

Details on how to enter the competition will be given in a later issue.

NB The competition will be open to residents of the UK and Eire only.

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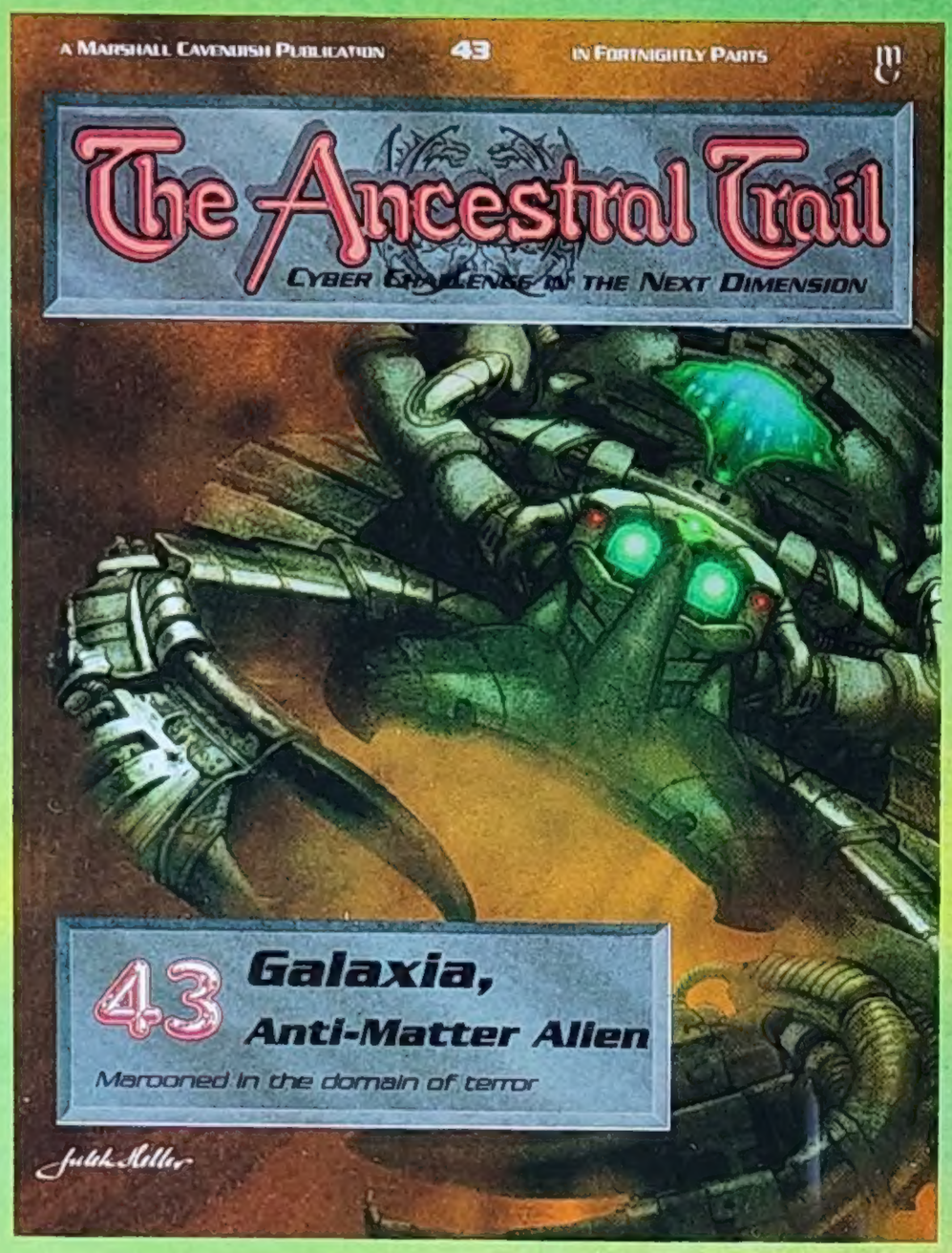

In Issue 43

Galaxia,
Anti-Matter Alien

Abandoned in the Cyber Dimension, Richard meets a new friend and has to fight an evil creature powered by anti-matter. Can he survive this latest exciting adventure?

plus

- More Techscan cards
- 2 more Cyber Power cards
- Cyber Chess pieces

Coming in Issue 44

Quasar, Faceless Fiend

With his new companion, Richard enters a world of fractals and is forced to do battle with its diabolical controller. Is this the end of his quest?

plus

- The final segment of your **Cyber Chess** and **Mainframe Control** games board

ISBN 0-7485-4507-7
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